

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 13 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative
of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
Security Council**

I have the honour to enclose the assessment by the presidency of Romania of the work of the Security Council during July 2004 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared on my own authority after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mihnea Motoc
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 13 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of Romania (July 2004)

Introduction

During the presidency of Romania in July 2004, the major focus of the Security Council was on Africa, particular attention being given to the situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

On African issues, the Security Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General on his visit to the Darfur region of the Sudan and held ongoing consultations throughout the month on a draft resolution that was eventually adopted on 30 July. It also held consultations on the situation in Sierra Leone, reviewed the political impasse between Eritrea and Ethiopia and considered the situation in Somalia, after which it issued a presidential statement. In addition, the Council was briefed on the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic and, at a public meeting, it heard a comprehensive briefing on the mission to West Africa in June 2004 led by Ambassador Sir Emyr Jones Parry. The Council extended the mandates of the Group of Experts and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the case of Côte d'Ivoire, the Council welcomed the initiatives of the African Union to overcome the political impasse in that country.

The Council considered the work of the International Monitoring and Advisory Board for Iraq, and welcomed the appointment of a new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq.

Expressing concern about tension in Lebanon, the Council by resolution 1553 (2004) extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The Council heard the regular briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

By the adoption of a presidential statement, it called for intensified efforts to support the political process in Afghanistan.

On European matters, the Council renewed the mandate of the multinational Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR) and that of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia. The Council also welcomed the European Union's intention to launch a follow-on mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, after the announced completion of SFOR in six months' time.

On 19 July, the Council addressed at a public meeting the threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts as it was briefed by the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the work of the Committee.

On 20 July, the Prime Minister of Romania presided over a public meeting on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes. The meeting occasioned an interactive debate in which representatives of nine regional organizations participated, together with the

Secretary-General. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a presidential statement on the matter.

During the month of July, the Council held five formal meetings, three public meetings, one open briefing and three private meetings with troop-contributing countries. Its members met on 15 occasions for consultations. It adopted six resolutions and issued four presidential statements. The President was authorized on two occasions to make statements to the press on behalf of the Council members.

Africa

Situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan

The Council met on several occasions at expert level to work on a draft resolution on the Darfur region of the Sudan aimed at putting an end to Janjaweed attacks against civilians and improving the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur.

At a closed meeting held on 7 July, the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General from Nairobi, via satellite, on his visit to the Sudan and Chad from 30 June to 3 July. The Secretary-General reiterated his concern at the grave situation in Darfur. He informed the Council of the joint communiqué issued by the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations on 3 July 2004 in Khartoum, in which the former pledged to take a series of measures to end the humanitarian crisis, including disarming the militias, bringing perpetrators of human rights abuses to justice and removing all obstacles to humanitarian access. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, and the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, briefed the Council on the humanitarian and political aspects of the situation, respectively. In remarks to the media after the briefing, the President of the Council called on the Government of the Sudan to fulfil all its commitments. He said that the Council welcomed the joint communiqué and appreciated the role of the African Union (AU), which had offered to deploy ceasefire monitors and help to mediate a solution to the conflict.

On 21 July, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Jan Pronk, briefed the Council in closed session. He informed the Council that members of the Joint Implementation Mechanism established under the joint communiqué would visit Darfur from 26 to 28 July to assess progress made by the Government of the Sudan on the implementation of commitments made to the Secretary-General in the joint communiqué. The Joint Implementation Mechanism would meet on 2 August to discuss the mission's findings. The Special Representative said that Darfur rebel groups would meet facilitators at Geneva on 22 July to discuss how to revive peace negotiations.

The three-day joint verification mission to Darfur (26-28 July) included visits to camps for internally displaced persons. The mission was scheduled to report its findings to a meeting of the Joint Implementation Mechanism on 2 August.

On 30 July, the Council, by resolution 1556 (2004), *inter alia*, imposed an arms embargo on all non-governmental entities and individuals, including the Janjaweed, operating in Darfur. The Council demanded that the Government of the Sudan fulfil its commitments to disarm the Janjaweed militias and apprehend and bring to justice

Janjaweed leaders and their associates. It also called on the Government to fulfil all the commitments made in the joint communiqué of 3 July 2004. The Council strongly urged rebel groups to respect the ceasefire, end the violence immediately, engage in peace talks without preconditions, and act in a positive and constructive manner to resolve the conflict. The Council requested the Secretary-General to report in 30 days and monthly thereafter on the Government's progress, and expressed its intention to consider further actions, including measures under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, in the event of non-compliance. It endorsed the deployment of international monitors to Darfur under the leadership of AU, and urged the international community to support those efforts. The Council urged the international community to make available much-needed assistance to mitigate the humanitarian catastrophe, and called upon Member States to honour pledges made against needs in Darfur and Chad. Several Council members made statements in explanation of vote before and after the adoption of the resolution. The representative of the Sudan, Ambassador Elfatih Mohamed Ahmed Erwa, who was invited to participate without the right to vote, also made a statement.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

After a closed briefing with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on 15 July, in which the Council was briefed on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the activities of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), the Council issued a statement to the press, in which it, *inter alia*, called on both parties to enhance efforts to overcome the impasse in the peace process, to continue to cooperate constructively with UNMEE to maintain stability and prevent incidents in the border area, to speedily implement the decision of the Boundary Commission and to step up cooperation with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Lloyd Axworthy (see appendix II).

Somalia

On 14 July, the Council met to consider the situation in Somalia, having before it the report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/469). The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/24) reiterating its firm support for the Somali national reconciliation process, condemning elements obstructing the peace process and calling on the Somali parties to fully implement the ceasefire, ensure security and resolve their differences peacefully. The Council also welcomed steps taken by AU to prepare for the deployment of military monitors to Somalia.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 14 July, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the mini-summit on the Democratic Republic of the Congo held on the sidelines of the African Union summit in Addis Ababa.

On 23 July, the Council held a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), during which it heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 27 July, in closed consultations, the Council heard a statement by the Permanent Representative of Algeria, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004), on the work of the Committee. The

Council had before it the report of the Group of Experts of 15 July (S/2004/551). Following that meeting, the Council adopted unanimously resolution 1552 (2004), renewing, until 31 July 2005, the provisions of paragraphs 20 to 22 of resolution 1493 (2003) and all the provisions of resolution 1533 (2004). In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to re-establish, within 30 days and for a period ending on 31 January 2005, the Group of Experts established by resolution 1533 (2004) to monitor the embargo. The Council requested that the Group report to it before 15 December 2004.

On 29 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1555 (2004), extending the mandate of MONUC until 1 October 2004. It recalled that the mandate of MONUC was contained in resolutions 1493 (2003) and 1533 (2004), which had been adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter. Noting that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region, and concerned by the ongoing tensions and continued hostilities in the eastern part of the country, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it before 16 August 2004 on the execution by MONUC of its mandate.

Central African Republic

On 7 July, following closed consultations in which the Council was briefed by the Representative of the Secretary-General, General Lamine Cissé, on the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Office in that country (BONUCA), the Council issued a statement to the press, in which it noted the positive evolution of the political situation and the progress made in the economic and financial fields. It encouraged the Central African authorities to maintain their efforts in organizing free, transparent and democratic presidential and legislative elections and welcomed the assistance provided by the international community as well as the efforts made by the members of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community. The Council expressed its concern regarding the possible consequences to the Central African Republic of the crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan, and requested the Secretary-General to report again on the situation in the Central African Republic, through his Representative, no later than the end of October 2004 (see appendix II).

Côte d'Ivoire

On 14 July, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the mini-summit convened by the Secretary-General on 6 July in Addis Ababa, during which the leaders of nine West African States voiced concern at the stalemate in Côte d'Ivoire. The leaders participating in the mini-summit decided to bring the parties in Côte d'Ivoire together on 29 July, in Accra, in an attempt to break the impasse in that country.

Sierra Leone

On the basis of the twenty-second report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/536) on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), presented in consultations on 15 July, the Council members took note of significant progress in consolidating peace in Sierra Leone, facilitated by the careful implementation of the UNAMSIL drawdown plan. The Council members also noted the fragility of the

gains made thus far and underlined the need for accelerated progress on the key benchmarks.

Mission to West Africa

On 16 July, the Council held a public meeting in connection with the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa, from 20 to 29 June 2004 (S/2004/525). The Mission recommended strengthening regional institutions including the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Economic Community of West African States, and urged the international donor community to respond to humanitarian appeals for the region. Besides the Council members, representatives of seven countries in the region, the Netherlands and Japan spoke at the meeting, together with the Chairman of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo of South Africa.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 14 July, the Council met in closed consultations to hear a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the latest developments in Afghanistan, including the decision on the timing and organization of elections in Afghanistan taken, on 9 July, by the Joint Electoral Management Body established by the Afghan authorities.

On 15 July, in a presidential statement on Afghanistan (S/PRST/2004/25), the Council, taking note of the decision announced by the Joint Electoral Management Body, welcomed and supported the holding of the presidential election in Afghanistan on 9 October 2004. The Council further took note of the decision of the Joint Electoral Management Body to hold parliamentary elections in April 2005. The Council understood that technical and logistical reasons made it impossible, as reported by the Secretariat, to hold simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections by September 2004. The Council stressed the importance of using the remaining months to ensure that the necessary preparations were completed and the conditions met for free and fair elections according to the Electoral Body's timetables. The Council also stressed the importance of accelerated progress on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to create a safer environment for the elections process.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 13 July, the Council held its regular monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East with the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed-Larsen. He told the Council that the Israeli withdrawal initiative from Gaza and parts of the West Bank offered an unprecedented opportunity for progress towards peace if implemented in the right way. This entailed full and complete withdrawal by Israel from the Gaza Strip and immediate action by Palestinians to reconstitute their security forces as stipulated in the road map. He further stated that the international community must support the parties along the challenging and laborious road leading to peace.

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

On 23 July, the Council held a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Council heard a briefing by the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

On 29 July, by the unanimous adoption of resolution 1553 (2004), the Council extended the mandate of UNIFIL by six months, until 31 January 2005. Reiterating its support for the territorial integrity and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries, the Council expressed concern at tensions and the potential for escalation, as noted in the Secretary-General's report of 21 July (S/2004/572), which covered the period from 21 January to 21 July 2004. The Council reiterated its call on the parties to continue to fulfil their commitments to respect the withdrawal line, to exercise utmost restraint and to cooperate fully with UNIFIL. It further encouraged the Government of Lebanon to continue efforts to ensure the return of its effective authority throughout the south, including the deployment of Lebanese armed forces.

Iraq

On 12 July, the Secretary-General appointed Ashraf Jehangir Qazi of Pakistan his Special Representative for Iraq. On 22 July the Secretary-General stated that Mr. Qazi would travel to Iraq as soon as practicable and once security arrangements were established to protect him and United Nations staff.

On 26 July, the Council was briefed by the United Nations Controller and Chairmen of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board, Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, on the Board's activities since its inception, pursuant to resolution 1483 (2003). The report focused on a number of issues relating to the Board's concerns regarding the control and use of Iraqi oil assets as well as on the next steps to be taken by the Board.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the light of the decision of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to conclude its multinational stabilization force operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the end of the year, by unanimous adoption of resolution 1551 (2004) on 9 July, the Council authorized participating Member States to continue SFOR for a further six months. By the same resolution, the Council welcomed the NATO decision and the European Union's intention to launch a follow-on mission there starting in December 2004.

Georgia

On 26 July, the Council held a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), at which it heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi.

On 29 July, the Council met to extend the mandate of UNOMIG, set to expire on 31 July, for a further six months, until 31 January 2005, to maintain stability along the ceasefire lines. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2004/570), in which he recommended an extension of the mandate of UNOMIG, and a letter dated 26 July from the Permanent Representative of Georgia (S/2004/595) which stressed, among other things, that the new Government envisioned a resolution to the conflict through peaceful, negotiated means. By the unanimous adoption of resolution 1554 (2004), the Council called on the parties to overcome their current mutual distrust and take concrete steps to revitalize the peace process. In addition, the Council voiced its deep regret at the Abkhaz side's continued refusal to agree to a discussion of the substance of a document on the Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competencies between the two parties, and stressed that negotiations leading to a lasting political settlement would require concessions from both sides. The Council called on both parties further to publicly dissociate themselves from all militant rhetoric and demonstrations of support for military options. The Council stressed the urgent need for progress on the question of refugees and internally displaced persons, calling on both sides to display a genuine commitment to focus special attention on returns and to work with both the United Nations Mission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It also recalled that the Abkhaz side bore a particular responsibility to protect the returnees and to facilitate the return of the remaining displaced people.

Counter-Terrorism Committee

On 19 July, the Council held an open debate during which it heard a briefing by the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Alexander Konuzin of the Russian Federation, in which he presented the Committee's work programme for the twelfth 90-day period (July-September 2004). The Chairman said that the Committee's main task for the twelfth 90-day period was the implementation of resolution 1535 (2004). He noted that the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Javier Ruperez of Spain, was expected to submit an organizational plan in the next 30 days. Ambassador Konuzin had started consultations on the plan with members of the Committee, who expected to consider the draft late in July. He also said that the Committee intended to begin preparations for its first visit to a Member State and to invite representatives of appropriate international organizations to join the mission. He stated that the development of cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations was a priority of the Committee. He further noted that the Committee's work had prompted more countries to become parties to anti-terrorism treaties and that the Counter-Terrorism Committee had continued work on the Directory of Counter-Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance. He drew attention to the problem of inadequate general understanding of the Committee's work, saying that it would continue its efforts to improve its communication methods. Most Council members made statements. The Council also heard statements by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), the Syrian Arab Republic, Liechtenstein, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Côte d'Ivoire, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

At the close of the meeting, the Council adopted a statement (S/PRST/2004/26) in which it welcomed preparations for the first visit by the Counter-Terrorism Committee to a Member State and invited the Committee to focus in the next three months on practical measures to implement resolution 1535 (2004) as well as to accelerate its work on country assessments of assistance needs. Noting that, as at 30 June 2004, 71 States had not met the deadline set for submission of their reports to the Committee, it called on them to submit them urgently. It further noted the importance of continuing the Committee's efforts to increase the capabilities of Member States to combat terrorism; to identify and address their problems in implementing resolution 1373 (2001); to facilitate the provision of technical assistance adjusted to the countries' needs; to encourage the largest possible number of States to become parties to counter-terrorism conventions and protocols; and to strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations acting in the areas outlined in resolution 1373 (2001).

Thematic issues

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes

On 20 July, the Council held a public debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes, hosted by the Romanian presidency of the Council. The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister of Romania, Adrian Nastase, and included the participation of the Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico and heads and representatives of nine regional organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to identify new methods of cooperation and interaction between the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as innovative approaches in conflict stabilization processes.

Participants in the meeting welcomed the timeliness of the meeting, emphasized that the Security Council had primary responsibility for peace and security, acknowledged the important role of regional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, and stated that the United Nations and regional organizations would both benefit from cooperating more on building stability. Several proposals aimed at enhancing collaboration between the United Nations and regional organizations were advanced which took into consideration certain principles guiding future partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations.

Speakers welcomed the practice of high-level meetings of the Secretary-General with the heads of regional organizations, and invited the Secretary-General to give consideration to the relevant views expressed during the meeting in preparation for the next high-level meeting. Participants also expressed the hope that the recommendations made during the debate would be considered by the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change to ensure an effective response to security threats.

The development of oversight mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness of cooperative arrangements in the different areas of stabilization processes was recommended, as well as commonality of objectives and adherence to the relevant

provisions of the Charter. For example, monitoring mechanisms could be created which, on the basis of regular and systematic exchange of lessons learned, best practices and joint projects, would themselves contribute to strengthening synergetic efforts.

At the close of the meeting, the Prime Minister made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2004/27), in which the Council encouraged enhanced cooperation and coordination among regional and subregional organizations, particularly through the exchange of information, sharing experiences and best practices. It further invited all Member States to contribute to strengthening the capacity of regional and subregional organizations in all parts of the world, including through the provision of human, technical and financial assistance.

Appendix I**Security Council resolutions and statements adopted in July 2004****Resolutions**

<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Subject</i>
1551 (2004)	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
1552 (2004)	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo
1553 (2004)	The situation in the Middle East
1554 (2004)	The situation in Georgia
1555 (2004)	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo
1556 (2004)	Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Statements by the President

<i>Statement number and date</i>	<i>Subject</i>
S/PRST/2004/24 of 14 July 2004	The situation in Somalia
S/PRST/2004/25 of 15 July 2004	The situation in Afghanistan
S/PRST/2004/26 of 19 July 2004	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts
S/PRST/2004/27 of 20 July 2004	Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes

Appendix II

Statements made to the press by the President of the Security Council in July 2004

Central African Republic (7 July)

The members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General, General Lamine Cissé, on the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic. They reiterated their full support for General Cissé's work.

The members of the Council noted with satisfaction the positive evolution of the political situation in the Central African Republic and the progress made in the economic and financial fields. They welcomed the various measures taken in the political field, in particular the establishment of the mixed and independent electoral commission, which represent an important step towards the restoration of constitutional legality.

The members of the Council encouraged the Central African authorities, who bear primary responsibility for the success of the transition, to maintain their efforts to organize as a top priority free, transparent and democratic presidential and legislative elections at the beginning of 2005, according to the timetable they have set. The members of the Council also invited them to facilitate greater involvement of Central African women in the electoral transition process currently under way. Finally, they encouraged them to ensure good governance.

The members of the Council welcomed the assistance provided by the international community to the stabilization and recovery of the Central African Republic as well as the considerable efforts made by the members of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) in the security, political and economic fields. They called once again on the international community to provide as soon as possible to the Central African Republic the necessary assistance to ensure the success of the transitional process.

The members of the Council reiterated their full support to the international force of CEMAC and called for the continuation of the process of restructuring the defence and security forces of the Central African Republic. They also urged the Central African authorities to do everything possible to fight human rights violations.

The members of the Council expressed their concern regarding the possible consequences to the Central African Republic of the crisis in the subregion, in particular the crisis in Darfur. They called, therefore, on the international community to increase support for the emergency plan that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is drawing up in this respect.

The members of the Council requested the Secretary-General to report again on the situation in the Central African Republic, through his Representative, no later than the end of October 2004.

Ethiopia and Eritrea (15 July)

The members of the Council heard a briefing on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the activities of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea. They reiterated their full support for the work of UNMEE.

The members of the Council expressed their satisfaction that some restrictions to the Mission's freedom of movement had recently decreased, but stressed that several other open questions such as direct flights between Addis Ababa and Asmara remained unresolved, which resulted in considerable additional costs. They called on both parties to continue to cooperate constructively with UNMEE to maintain stability and prevent incidents in the border area. The members of the Council also welcomed ongoing UNMEE efforts to streamline its operations.

The members of the Council welcomed the recent visit of the Secretary-General to both capitals and expressed the hope that his meetings with President Isaias Afwerki and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi would provide new momentum for an active and constructive involvement of both parties with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General. They called on the parties to speedily implement the decision of the Boundary Commission and to step up their cooperation with the Special Envoy in order to overcome the impasse in the peace process. They also called on the parties to enhance efforts to reach an effective and mutually acceptable political solution to the remaining problems.

The members of the Council recalled the commitment both parties had made through the Algiers Agreement to resolve their differences peacefully and to cooperate fully and promptly with the Boundary Commission.